

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 34-37 having been previously cancelled, Claims 22 through 33 and 38 through 40 are now presented for examination. Withdrawn Claims 38 through 40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 22, 28 and 29 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record. Claims 22 and 28 are the only independent claims.

Non-elected and withdrawn Claims 38-40 have been cancelled as required by the Examiner.

Claims 22-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPR) in view of U.S. Patent 5,006,760 (Drake, Jr.). Claims 27 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPR) in view of U.S. Patent 5,006,760 (Drake, Jr.) and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,856,904 (Akagawa). With regard to the claims as currently amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 22 as currently amended is directed to a pod that attaches to a grounded electromagnetic-shielded chamber which contains device manufacturing apparatus for processing a substrate. The pod has walls containing a substrate. A lid for an opening defined by the walls transfers the substrate between the pod and the grounded electromagnetic-shielded chamber. The walls have an electromagnetic shield member which includes a portion to contact the grounded electromagnetic-shielded chamber during attachment of the pod to the grounded electromagnetic shielded chamber.

Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) disclosure has been cited as disclosing a pod attachable to the outside wall of an electromagnetic shielded chamber with walls and importing a substrate to a device manufacturing apparatus in the electromagnetic shielded member from the pod.

In Applicant's view, Drake discloses a capacitive feed arrangement for a parallel plate plasma reactor. One plate of the capacitor has a lower electrode or a contact to the lower electrode and the other plate of the capacitor has an annular member insulated from the lower electrode or contact. In Drake, an upper electrode 11 and a lower electrode 13 are separated by a dielectric ring 12. The upper electrode 11 is grounded and the lower electrode 13 which is insulated from the upper electrode 11 and ground serves as a stage for holding a wafer 14. A shield that is insulated from the lower electrode 13 connects to a ground 26 that is not connected to the upper electrode 11. Conductive ring 17 that is connected to an RF power source is insulated from upper electrode 11 and lower electrode 13 so that conductive ring 17 and lower electrode 13 form a capacitor 35 so that an electric field exists between the lower electrode 13 and the grounded upper electrode 11.

According to the invention of Claim 22 as currently amended, the walls of a pod containing a substrate have an electromagnetic shield member that includes a portion for contacting a grounded electromagnetic shielded chamber during attachment of the pod to the grounded electromagnetic shielded chamber. Advantageously, complete electromagnetic shielding is provided in a state in which the pod is attached to the device manufacturing apparatus while a substrate is transferred from the pod to the electromagnetic-shielded chamber.

As recognized by the Examiner, the AAPR does not specifically mention an electromagnetic shield member provided by said walls. Drake discloses with respect to Fig. 1 a shield 27 that is grounded. The ground of the shield 27, however, is connected to a ground ring 26 that is insulated from the grounded upper electrode 11 by a dielectric ring 12 and an insulating sleeve 25. The ground ring 26 is connected to ground by a connection that is separate from the ground connection of the upper electrode 11. Accordingly, the ground ring 26 is independent of and separated from the upper electrode 11 which constitutes an electromagnetic shielded chamber. It is therefore not seen that Drake in any manner teaches or suggests the feature of Claim 22 of an electromagnetic shield member of the pod which electromagnetic shield member has a portion for contacting a grounded electromagnetic shielded chamber during attachment of the pod to the grounded electromagnetic shielded chamber. It is also not seen that the addition of a pod without an electromagnetic shield member for its walls to Drake which fails to suggest any connection between a shield member 26 and a grounded shielded chamber 11 could possibly suggest the feature of Claim 22 of walls of a pod containing a substrate having an electromagnetic shield member that includes a portion for contacting a grounded electromagnetic shielded chamber during attachment of the pod to the grounded electromagnetic shielded chamber. It is therefore believed that Claim 22 as currently amended is completely distinguished from any combination of the AAPR and Drake and is allowable.

Independent Claim 28 as currently amended is directed to apparatus for manufacturing a device using a substrate that has an electromagnetic shield chamber. In the apparatus, a transfer unit in the electromagnetic shielded chamber transfers the substrate between the electromagnetic shielded chamber and a pod attached to an outside surface of the

electromagnetic shielded chamber. A processing unit performs a process using the substrate transferred into the electromagnetic shielded chamber from the pod by the transfer unit. The electromagnetic shielded chamber has a grounded portion to provide a grounded connection to the attached pod.

It is feature of Claim 28 as currently amended that an electromagnetic shielded chamber has a grounded portion for providing a grounded connection to an attached pod. As discussed with respect to Claim 22, the AAPR fails to suggest any arrangement on an electromagnetic shielded chamber to provide a grounded connection for pod attachment. Drake may teach a grounded upper electrode 11 of a plasma reactor and a shield 27 on a lower electrode 13 of the plasma reactor that holds a substrate. As discussed with respect to Claim 22, the electromagnetic shield 27 of Drake is grounded by a ground ring 26 which is separate from and independent of the grounded upper electrode 11. There is no connection between the grounded upper electrode 11 and the shield 27 and the ground for the upper electrode 11 is insulated from the ground ring 26 that grounds the shield 27. It is therefore not seen that the addition of the AAPR which fails to suggest any connection between a lower electrode shield and an upper electrode to Drake which requires the shield 27 to be connected to a ground ring 26 which ground ring is insulated from the grounded upper electrode 11 could possibly suggest the arrangement of an electromagnetic shielded chamber having a grounded portion for providing a grounded connection to an attached pod as in Claim 28. Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 28 as currently amended is completely distinguished from any combination of the AAPR and Drake and is allowable.

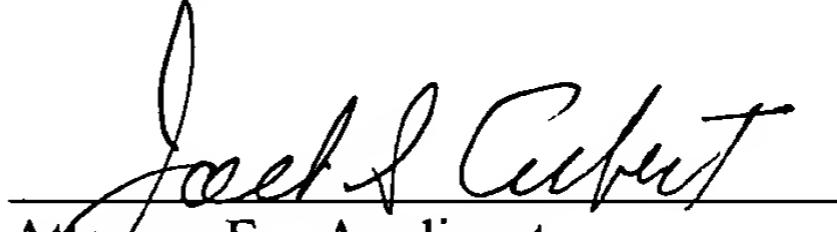
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 22 and 28, also are patentably defined over the cited art.

Dependent claims 23-27 and 29-33 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claims 22 and 28. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' attorney, Steven E. Warner, may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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